

REMARKS

Status

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are pending, among which claims 1 and 16 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16-18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hennen is respectfully traversed.

Both claims 1 and 16 as amended above call (i) the release sheet base material to be formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a polyester film, a polypropylene film and a lint-free paper and (ii) the release agent layer of the release sheet to comprise mainly a polyolefin resin whose density is equal to or less than 0.94 g/cm^3 and whose numerical average molecular weight is about 15,000 to about 500,000 determined by GPC. These two limitations ensure sufficient adhesion between the release sheet base material and the releasing agent layer.

Also, both claims 1 and 16 as amended above call a wetting tension at the surface of the releasing agent layer which faces the pressure sensitive adhesive layer to be equal to or less than 33 mN/m measured under the wetting tension test defined by JIS K 6768. This limitation provides sufficient releasability with the release sheet or the releasing agent layer.

Therefore, for example, when the release sheet is peeled off from the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet, it is ensured that the pressure sensitive adhesive article breaks apart exactly at the intended location. It is thus ensured that the release sheet is peeled off from the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet exactly along the boundary of the releasing agent layer and the pressure sensitive adhesive layer.

Hennen discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive article in which a releasing agent layer is adhered to a pressure sensitive adhesive layer. In Hennen, the pressure sensitive adhesive layer is mainly formed of polyurethane resin. The releasing agent layer is mainly formed of polyolefin resin selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene α

copolymers or olefin based thermoplastic elastomer, or a mixture thereof, which has a density equal to or less than 0.94 g/cm³.

Also, in Hennen, the releasing agent layer that faces the pressure sensitive adhesive layer exhibits an almost zero release force. Hennen also discloses a release sheet which includes as a release sheet base material a TEO film core on which the releasing agent layer is provided.

However, there is nothing in Hennen that discloses or teaches that the release agent layer of the release sheet comprises mainly a polyolefin resin whose numerical average molecular weight is about 15,000 to about 500,000 determined by GPC. Thus, Hennen is silent about the release agent layer so claimed in combination with the release sheet base material which is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a polyester film, a polypropylene film and a lint-free paper.

Hennel is also silent about the pressure sensitive adhesive layer which contains silicone compound, the content of which is 500 g/m² or less. (See claims 5 and 11).

Therefore, since Hennen lacks the limitation of the release agent layer combined with the release sheet base material, claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated Hennen. Since claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated by Hennen, neither are their dependent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

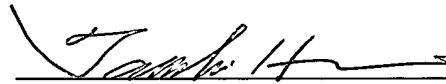
The pending claims are not obvious over Hennen in combination with Shikinami et al. Shikinami only discloses a conductive sticking agent or an antistatic agent used in the technical fields of industry, agriculture, packaging and electronics.

Likewise, there is nothing in Shikinami that discloses or teaches that the release agent layer of the release sheet comprises mainly a polyolefin resin whose numerical average molecular weight is about 15,000 to about 500,000 determined by GPC. Thus, Shikinami is silent about the release agent layer so claimed in combination with the release sheet base material which is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a polyester film, a polypropylene film and a lint-free paper.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious in view of Hennen and Shikinami, individually or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tadashi Horie
Registration No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200